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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Oranienburg

619099

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 1 April 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. Between 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on 3 March 1954, [redacted] in the Weisse Stadt settlement (4683). About 40 troops supervised by an officer were driving piles on the east bank of the canal between Thaelmann Strasse and the railroad line. The installation was occupied as previously by an estimated 1,500 troops, who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. Individual officers wore blue-bordered black epaulets with engineer and signal insignia.

25X1

25X1

2. On 6 March, the west section of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp (4681/82) was occupied by an estimated 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia.

25X1

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In the morning, about 300 troops left the installation for the culture house east of the Oranienburg freight station. Truck [redacted] and sedan [redacted] occupied by 1 Soviet officer and 1 FDJ member were seen there.

25X1

3. Loadings observed in Oranienburg on 5 March included:

25X1

3 a.m. to 7:10 a.m. An undetermined number of troops from the Weisse Stadt restricted area (4683) on 2 boxcars and 20 tanks [redacted] on 20 flatcars with sideracks.

25X1

5:30 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. An undetermined number of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly from the Weisse Stadt settlement and some from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, on 4 boxcars, boxes and billing equipment on 4 boxcars, and 3 T-34 tanks [redacted] M-3 armored personnel carriers [redacted] ambulance [redacted] tank truck [redacted] repair shop truck [redacted] jeeps [redacted] 15 trucks, [redacted] 8 M-13 rocket launchers, 12 motor cycles and 2 field kitchens on 31 flatcars with sideracks.

25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET/

- 2 -

25X1

8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. An undetermined number of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets from the Weisse Stadt settlement on 4 boxcars, boxes and billeting equipment on 5 boxcars, billeting equipment on 6 boxcars with sideracks. 12 motorcycles. 3 x 37-mm AA guns. 1 BA-64 armored scout car. 10 trucks

shop trucks repair and 4 M-13 rocket launchers on 36 flatcars with sideracks.

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10:30 a.m. to 3:56 p.m. An undetermined number of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly from Weisse Stadt settlement and some from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp on 4 boxcars, boxes and billeting equipment on 14 boxcars, other equipment on 2 flatcars with sideracks. 12 tank trucks 10 trucks

25X1

and 2 field kitchens on 22 flatcars with sideracks.

4:10 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets on 3 boxcars, 6 closed boxcars, 6 x 37-mm AA guns, 2 M-13 armored personnel carriers, 12 BA-64 armored scout cars, 37 trucks, 2 sedans and 4 jeeps on 46 flatcars with sideracks. All trains left for Neustrelitz. A railroadman stated that the trains were to be forwarded to Mirow via Neustrelitz.¹

25X1

4. At 6:10 p.m. on 8 March, a shipment of 7 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 3 closed boxcars and 49 flatcars with sideracks carrying 40 trucks 2 jeeps, 4 M-13 rocket launchers and 2 searchlights of 120 and 150 cm in diameter passed through Oranienburg, coming from Neustrelitz and proceeding to Wustrow.²

25X1

5. On 5 March, weapons and trucks occupied by troops kept leaving the Weisse Stadt settlement for entraining. About 50 trucks, 8 rocket launchers and several AA guns of light caliber were identified. The approach roads to the station were blocked and security measures in the loading area were strict. the troops were leaving for a summer camp and that the vacation of the restricted area was to be completed by 15 March.⁴

25X1

25X1

6. At about 11 a.m. on 7 March, 6 details, each of 80 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, left through the gate near building No 86 of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp for Schuetzenhaus on Bernauer Allee. Four officers of the armored command marched in front of each detail. The rear was brought up by 30 women wearing red-bordered black epaulets. At about 1 p.m., the troops returned to the camp. At 9:40 a.m. on 11 March, 14 women wearing new uniforms with red-bordered black epaulets and carrying baggage entered the camp from the Oranienburg railroad station. At about 2 p.m. on the same day, 4 officers and 12 EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying baggage went to the station. Between 6 and 11 March, 1 to 2 T-34 tanks daily went to the training area at about 10 a.m. and returned to the camp at about 1 p.m. In the afternoon on 6, 8 and 9 March, 2 T-34 tanks practiced driving in the wooded area between the Lehnitz lock and Schmachtenhagen. The dummy tanks and targets near buildings Nos 148, 149, and 150 were replaced by new and bigger ones. About 250 troops were daily observed there at aiming practice in the morning, while several other details of 40 to 50 troops each engaged in physical training and about 150 troops received instruction on 1 T-34 tank. Sixty to 80 troops daily marched to the target ranges near the brick works.

25X1

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SECRET/

- 3 -

25X1

1. [] Comment. The information confirms previous reports on transportation, according to which, on 5 March, 5 troop trains went from Oranienburg to the training area of the 25th Tank Div southeast of Mueritz Lake. According to weapons observed, units entrained included elements of the 1702d AAA Regt, the 53d Mtrcl Bn, the 16th Gds RL Bn and tanks of the unidentified tank training battalion. It is doubted that the troops should have left the Weisse Stadt settlement for a summer camp as one shipment from Netzeband to Oranienburg was observed after the completion of the exercise on 11 March.

25X1

2. [] Comment. [] on 8 March [] a shipment of AAA guns and rocket launchers of the 9th Gds Tank Div which went to Luckenwalde for advanced combat practice firing []

25X1

25X1

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